Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00754 270929Z

67
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 INR-05 PRS-01 SP-02 /037 W
---------- 003502
R 270915Z APR 76
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5541
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0754

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT PFOR CH
SUBJECT: CHOU EN-LAI'S SICKBED ATTENTION TO FOREIGN POLICY

1. SRI LANKA DCM TELLS US THAT ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO MFA DEPUTY DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CHANG HAN-CHIH (WIFE OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA) SAID TO HIM THAT CHOU EN-LAI, UP UNTIL THREE OR FOUR WEEKS BEFORE HIS DEATH, CONTINUED TO OVERSEE FOREIGN AFFAIRS. UNTIL THEN, MFA PAPERS WERE TAKEN TO HIM REGULARLY AT THE HOSPITAL, AND HE WAS STILL MAKING SOME FOREIGN AFFAIRS DECISIONS. CHOU, CHANG ASSERTED, ALWAYS FAITHFULLY CARRIED OUT CHAIRMAN MAO'S FOREIGN POLICY. THE CASE OF TENG HSIAO-PING WAS A WHOLLY DIFFERENT MATTER. (SEPTEL WILL COVER HER REMARKS ON TENG.)

COMMENT: THERE ARE CURRENTLY RUMORS IN PEKING'S DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY THAT CHIAO KUAN-HUA IS BEING CRITICIZED FOR HAVING MADE CERTAIN MISTAKES IN FOREIGN POLICY DURING THE PAST YEAR. THE REPORTED STATEMENT BY CHIAO'S WIFE THAT CHOU WAS STILL RUNNING FOREIGN POLICY THREE TO FOUR WEEKS BEFORE HIS DEATH LOOKS TO US LIKE AN EFFORT ALSO TO CLEAR CHIAO OF ANY WRONG DOING, AT LEAST THROUGH THE PERIOD OF THE FORD VISIT
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(DECEMBER 1-5; CHOU DIED JANUARY 8).

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THAYER

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NNN

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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